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Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate

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BRIDGETTE CUMLEY/5280fire.com

A long trek of flames run behind a home during the Quail Hollow Fire southeast of Byers midday July 13. Eight structures were lost and 1,150 acres charred in the burn area that spanned Arapahoe County roads 18 and 38 north to south and county roads 193 and 185 east to west. The evacuation area was approximately three miles.

Flames devour 1,150 acres, 4 homes

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BYERS — What started as a small, slow-moving brush fire quickly raged into several miles of destruction, including the loss of eight structures and charring of almost two sections of property southeast of Byers July 13.

About five hours into what became the Quail Hollow Fire, full containment was announced, but flames had consumed 1,150 acres of property and at least four homes and forced the evacuation of numerous residents and livestock within the area of Arapahoe county roads 18 and 38 north to south and county roads 193 and 185 east to

west. No human injuries or deaths occurred. No confirmed reports of animal losses were received.

“It was first called in as a small brush fire but grew very quickly,” said Arapahoe County Sheriff Tyler Brown. “But it was a very cooperative effort by all our [emergency] partners that allowed us to get containment in a pretty miraculous span of time.”

In a July 15 update, a sheriff’s office spokesperson said the investigation, led by Strasburg Fire, has not yet uncovered the specific cause.

“They should have a preliminary answer in a few days,” said Ginger Delga-

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BRIDGETTE CUMLEY/5280fire.com

Flames reached heights of approximately 30 feet during the Quail Hollow Fire southeast of Byers July 13. The fire jumped Arapahoe County Road 34 but firefighters were able to stop the blaze before it reached County Road 38.

Suspect in high-speed chase on I-70 remains at large DT OKs interim sewer rate

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

Efforts by multiple I-70 Corridor law enforcement jurisdictions to slow down and apprehend the suspect in an alleged metro carjacking that evolved into attempted mail theft in eastern Elbert County were unsuccessful earlier this month.

About 2 p.m. July 2, the Elbert County Sheriff’s Office received notification that a stolen vehicle from an Aurora carjacking was in the county and that an investigator in an unmarked patrol unit located the vehicle near Highway 86 and County Road 77. GPS information from the vehicle manufacturer indicated the car had also been tracked to the 42000 block of Ridge Road. Sheriff’s office investigators and depu-

ties also found mail strewn along County Road 122 east of Ridge Road and the vehicle was located shortly thereafter.

“The suspect was right in front of one of our investigators, who attempted to get closer, but the suspect was traveling approximately 125 mph eastbound on Highway 86. The investigator did not turn on his lights or siren as he did not have a cover deputy,” said Elbert County Undersheriff Dave Fisher. “We requested assistance from Lincoln County and Limon [Police Department] after we were advised that the suspect vehicle went northbound on County Road 153. The suspect reached speeds of 90 mph on the investigator’s radar unit. These speeds were too fast for the investigator

**SEE HIGH-SPEED CHASE
PAGE 22**

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Moderate- and high-level water users in Deer Trail will have a temporary reprieve from higher sewer bills as town officials figure out how to proceed with an anticipated new wastewater billing structure.

During their July 9 regular monthly meeting, Deer Trail trustees voted 6-0 to approve a flat sewer rate of \$35 per month for all residences over the next four months, starting with this month’s bills.

Water bills are not included under the temporary cap.

The original motion by Trustee Ashley Buss

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